

Message Text

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ACTION EB-07

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 AGRE-00 AF-08 ARA-06 EA-07

NEA-10 OIC-02 FEA-01 AGR-05 CEA-01 CIAE-00 COME-00

DODE-00 FRB-03 H-02 INR-07 INT-05 L-03 LAB-04 NSAE-00

NSC-05 PA-01 AID-05 CIEP-01 SS-15 STR-04 ITC-01

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EEC, GATT

SUBJECT: ARTICLE 113 DISCUSSION OF GATT ISSUES

1. THE PRINCIPALS OF THE ARTICLE 113 COMMITTEE DISCUSSED ON SEPTEMBER 24 A NUMBER OF ISSUES RELATED TO GATT BUT REACHED FEW DECISIONS. WE HAVE BEEN TOLD THAT SEVERAL OF THE PARTICIPANTS ARE BECOMING ANNOYED THAT THE 113 DISCUSSIONS ARE INCONCLUSIVE AND NOT WORTH THE TIME OF THE PRINCIPALS. WE ARE TOLD, FOR EXAMPLE, THAT FRAU STEEG HAS NOT ATTENDED A NUMBER OF MEETINGS. THIS CURRENT MEETING SEEMS NO EXCEPTION. THE FOLLOWING WERE AMONG THE PRINCIPAL POINTS, ACCORDING TO OUR PERMDEL SOURCES.

2. GATT MINISTERIAL MEETING. ACCORDING TO A REPORT FROM A PERMDEL THE DISCUSSION TOOK PLACE AT LUNCH AND WAS CONSIDERED INFORMAL AND NOT BINDING. HOWEVER, EXCEPT FOR THE COMMISSION WHICH WAS PUSHING FOR A SPRING MINISTERIAL, EVERYBODY ELSE SEEMED TO SHOW DOUBTS. NO MEMBER STATE WAS STRONGLY IN FAVOR. THE DOUBTS WERE (A) WHAT CAN THE MINISTERS DO EXCEPT FIX DEADLINES--

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AND THIS IS NOT AN ACTIVITY THAT REQUIRES MINISTERS; (B) IF

ALL THEY ARE ASKED TO DO IS FIX DEADLINES, IS THERE NOT SOME POSSIBILITY THAT THEY WILL FIND SOMETHING TO DO WHICH IS LESS HELPFUL? (SOME OF THE OBJECTION TURN ON THE POTENTIAL FOR TROUBLE AMONGST THE LDC'S.)

THIS MATTER WILL BE DISCUSSED AGAIN BUT WILL PROBABLY NOT BE DECIDED UNTIL NOVEMBER.

3. SOAMES' CHEF DE CABINET, HANNAY, TOLD THE DCM THAT UNFORTUNATELY PUBLIC STATEMENTS BY DENT AND YEUTTER THAT THE UNITED STATES WAS ATTEMPTING TO ORGANIZE SUCH A MINISTERIAL MEETING CAUSED THE MEMBER STATES TO REACT TO THE WHOLE IDEA AS A US PROPOSAL RATHER THAN CONSIDER THE MERITS OF THE JOINT US-EC APPROACH TO THE GATT WHICH THE COMMISSION HAD WANTED TO ENCOURAGE.

4. SAFEGUARDS. NO CONCLUSIONS WERE REACHED ON THIS SUBJECT. THE MATTER WILL BE LOOKED AT AGAIN AT THE DEPUTIES MEETING. THERE WAS A GOOD DEAL OF INTEREST IN ELUCIDATION ON THE US POSITION, PARTICULARLY WITH RESPECT TO SELECTIVITY.

5. BRAZILIAN REFORM PROPOSAL. ONE MEMBER STATE SEEMED TO PREFER THE US DRAFT BUT THE OTHERS, EXCEPT THE FRENCH, SEEMED TO FEEL THAT THE BRAZILIAN TERMS OF REFERENCE WERE ACCEPTABLE WITH ONE OR TWO CHANGES. THE FRENCH ARE STILL RESISTING, ARGUING THAT THE TERMS OF REFERENCE FOR A FRAMEWORK GROUP SHOULD BE LIMITED TO DC/LDC QUESTIONS.

6. TEXTILES. THE DISCUSSION WAS PRELIMINARY AND ALMOST EXCLUSIVELY PROCEDURAL, DEALING WITH WHETHER OF NOT INTERNAL PREPARATIONS FOR EXTENSION OF THE MFA SHOULD BE THE RESPONSIBILITY OF THE 113 COMMITTEE OR THE TEXTILE GROUP. THE DECISION WAS TO SPLIT RESPONSIBILITIES. THE UK TALKED ABOUT THE NEED FOR GETTING ON WITH THE DISCUSSION AND MENTIONED ITS OWN DOMESTIC PROBLEM ON THE NEED FOR "IMPROVEMENTS". THE DUTCH ALSO MENTIONED PROBLEMS THEY WERE HAVING IN THE TEXTILE SECTOR. HINTON

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